



Weekly Wire
East Asia and Pacific
May 2, 2013

AUSTRALIA: Assisting Indonesian Educators

Four Indonesian educators are working with the *Science by Doing* team at the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra. The visit is part of an Australian Government-funded pilot project, Promoting Real Australian Indonesian Science Education. The Indonesian team is developing a science curriculum for Indonesian students, and the Australian Academy representatives are sharing the knowledge gained in developing the program in Australia. Two members of the *Science by Doing* team will later travel to Indonesia to participate in a workshop for Indonesian teachers involved in a trial of the new curriculum.

<http://science.org.au/news/>

AUSTRALIA: Changing Wave Heights

The coastal impacts of climate change studies have predominantly focused on the influence of sea-level rise and, until now, not focused on how changing wave conditions will impact the coastal zone in a changing climate. An Australian climate research team compared its research results with those from U.S., Japan, Europe and Canada, and reports a likely decrease in average wave heights across 25% of the global ocean.

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Portals/Media/Changing-wave-heights-projected-as-the-atmosphere-warms.aspx>

JAPAN: Chikyu+10

As international ocean-discovery efforts will be entering into a new phase, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology organized a workshop, “Chikyu+10,” in Tokyo from April 21-23 to explore what could be achieved using Japan’s riser deep-sea drilling vessel *Chikyu* in the next decade and beyond. The workshop included almost 400 participants from more than 22 countries with about 130 white papers and 35 posters. About 50 of the attendees were NSF-funded.

<http://www.jamstec.go.jp/chikyu+10/>

JAPAN: Research Ranking

According to the Thomson Reuters’ report on journal citation rankings for research institutions in 2013, the University of Tokyo ranked first in Japan for the 12th straight year. Worldwide, however, the University of Tokyo fell from 16th last year to 17th this year, dropping for the third year in a row. Nine of Japan’s top 10 research institutions declined in global ranking, indicating a downturn trend in Japan’s research ability. Japan’s journal citations increased, but the number of citations for overseas research institutions grew even more.

(Source: Nihon Keizai Newspaper – April 17, 2013 P. 38)

JAPAN: Three U.S. Researchers Awarded the Japan Prize

The 2013 Japan Prize was awarded to three U.S. researchers for their scientific contributions in the fields of semiconductor manufacturing and ecology. The joint winners in the field of materials and production are C. Grant Wilson, a chemistry professor at the University of Texas, Austin, and Jean

M.J. Frechet, vice president of research at Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, for developing materials that contributed to an innovative semiconductor manufacturing process. The prize in the area of biological production and biological environment went to John Frederick Grassle, professor emeritus of Rutgers University, for his findings on the biodiversity of deep-sea organisms. All three Japan Prize laureates have been NSF Principal Investigators or Co-Principal Investigators. The award ceremony was held in the presence of the Emperor at the National Theater of Japan on April 24. Each Japan Prize laureate received a certificate and a prize medal. A cash prize of Yen 50 million (approx. US\$500,000) was also awarded for each prize field.

<http://www.japanprize.jp/en/index.html>

KOREA: Science Park and Accelerator Lab.

The Institute for Basic Science (IBS) and Korea University (KU) signed an MOU to establish the IBS-KU Science Park on Korea University's Sejong Campus. The MOU outlines how the two institutions will launch and operate the Graduate School of Accelerator Science and the Rare Isotope Accelerator R&D Laboratory. This laboratory will feature the cutting-edge Vertical Test Stand which, when completed in 2014, will be able to test three accelerator devices simultaneously. It is expected that the collaboration will attract companies (in the field of accelerators) to relocate to Sejong.

http://ibs.re.kr/en/news/pressRelease.jsp?mode=view&article_no=20130418103116772199&board_wrapper=%2Fen%2Fnews%2FpressRelease.jsp&pager.offset=0&board_no=35

KOREA: R&D Budget Increase by 2017

In an effort to promote an S&T based economy, the government will increase its investment in the R&D budget for small- and medium-sized companies. The investment will increase by 4.4% to 18% in 2017.

http://news.mk.co.kr/english/newsRead.php?sc=30800006&cm=English%20News_&year=2013&no=315864&selfFlag=&relatedcode=&wonNo=&sid=308

NEW ZEALAND: Collaboration with China

New Zealand will collaborate with China in "food safety and security" and "water research," two topics that were identified as priority areas in the Agreement of a Five-Year Roadmap for China-NZ Science and Technology Cooperation signed in 2012. New Zealand will invest \$600,000 to support its researchers; the Ministry of Science and Technology in China will support its researchers.

<http://www.msi.govt.nz/assets/Get-Funded-Documents/Request-for-Proposals/Request-for-Proposals-NZ-China-Joint-Research-Projects-2013.pdf>

NEW ZEALAND: Science Challenges

The government will invest \$133.5 million (US\$114 million) over the next four years to support research in the 10 National Science Challenges that include biological heritage; land and water; life in a changing ocean; the deep south; science for technological innovation; and resilience to nature's challenges.

http://www.msi.govt.nz/update-me/major-projects/national-science-challenges/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NSC+announcement&utm_content=NSC+announc

[ement+CID_d337d36d714881c5d8d5d1f0d6ccb9dc&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=website](#)

NEW ZEALAND: Strengthening Science and Innovation Links with China

The Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment will establish a new science and innovation counselor position in Beijing by the end of 2013. The Ministry currently has two such positions, one in the U.S. and one in Europe. In addition, a renewed scientist exchange program will continue to broaden links between the two countries.

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-science-amp-innovation-counsellor-china>

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-scientist-exchange-programme-china>

PHILIPPINES: Environmental Degradation Severe

The Philippines has the second lowest forest coverage in Southeast Asia and 40 percent of its coral area is in poor condition. Whereas Philippine biodiversity is considered as one of the richest in the world, it is also one of the most threatened. The environmental problems in the country reflect the neglect and abuse over many years. The government pledges to reverse country's environmental condition.

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/Philippines-has-Southeast-Asia%E2%80%99s-lowest-forest-c-45817.html>

SINGAPORE: Lab-on-Chip

A*STAR and Veredus have created VereTroop, the first biochip in the molecular diagnosis market that identifies 13 different tropical diseases from a single blood sample. The portable test kit is a rapid and reliable method to accurately test for multiple pathogenic targets from just one blood sample in a matter of hours.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/?TabId=828&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1806>

SINGAPORE: BMW, NTU Launch Joint Research Facility

Advanced battery technologies that power electric cars of the future will be pursued in the joint research facility that was recently launched by the BMW Group and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). NTU joins seven other universities – including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Georgia Institute of Technology – as partners to the BMW group in setting up joint labs.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-04/ntu-bg042313.php